

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (withdrawn – currently amended) A method for positioning a flexible printing plate on a carrier, comprising the following steps of:

placing on a table the flexible printing plate for positioning;

determining ~~[[the]]~~ a position of the printing plate by means of a visual display device;

and

depending on the position, moving the printing plate to its ~~[[end]]~~ final position on the carrier,

~~characterized in that wherein~~ the position of the ~~carrier printing plate~~ is sensed in the vicinity of the final position and ~~[[that]]~~ the ~~earlier printing plate~~ is moved to its ~~[[end]]~~ final position depending on the position sensed in the vicinity of the final position.

2. (withdrawn – currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the position of the printing plate in the vicinity of its ~~[[end]]~~ final position is sensed by a camera.

3. (withdrawn – currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the ~~actual~~ determined position of the printing plate and ~~the end~~ a desired final position of the printing plate are compared in a digital device coupled to the camera.

4. (withdrawn – currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein ~~[[the displacement]]~~ moving the printing plate to its final position is controlled subject to the result of the comparison.

5. (withdrawn – currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ several printing plates ~~positioned~~ are placed on the table ~~are positioned successively~~ for successive positioning.

6. (withdrawn – currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising the camera zooming-in on the printing plate ~~in order to increase the accuracy of the positioning of the printing plate~~.

7. (withdrawn – currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~repeating the sensing of~~ repeatedly (i) determining the position of the carrier printing plate and the comparison of the sensed position to the end position (ii) comparing the position of the printing plate and a desired final position of the printing plate, and (iii) moving the printing plate to its final position subject to the result of the comparison until the ~~[[end]]~~ desired final position has been obtained with sufficient accuracy.

8. (withdrawn – currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein placing ~~on a table~~ of the flexible printing plate on the table for positioning and determining ~~[[of]]~~ the position of the printing plate by means of a visual display device take place simultaneously.

9. (currently amended) A device for positioning a printing plate on a carrier, comprising a table for ~~positioning~~ placing the ~~at least one~~ printing plate for positioning, support means for supporting the carrier on which the printing plate ~~must be~~ is positioned, at least one camera for recording ~~[[the]]~~ an image of the printing plate, a manipulator for transporting the printing plate to the carrier ~~placed on the support means~~, and a control means which is adapted to control the manipulator and which is connected to the at least one camera to obtain signals coming from the

~~at least one camera, characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one camera is placed for sensing ~~[[the]]~~ a position of the printing plate in the vicinity of the support means.

10. (previously presented) The device of claim 9, further comprising a digital device for comparing the ~~actual~~ position of the printing plate and ~~[[the]]~~ a desired ~~[[end]]~~ final position of the printing plate.

11. (currently amended) The device of claim 10, wherein the digital device is adapted to control the ~~displacement~~ position of the printing plate subject to the result of the comparison.

12. (previously presented) The device of claim 9, wherein the device is suitable for successively positioning several printing plates placed on top of each other on the table.

13. (currently amended) The device of claim 9, wherein the control means is adapted to control the transportation of the printing plate, independent~~[[ly]]~~ of the image displayed by the at least one camera, from the table to ~~[[that]]~~ a part of the ~~machine~~ device being recorded by the at least one camera.

14. (currently amended) The device of claim ~~[[13]]~~ 9, wherein the control means is adapted to compare the recorded image to an image stored in ~~[[the]]~~ memory.

15. (previously presented) The device of claim 14, wherein the control means is provided with software for image comparison.

16. (currently amended) The device of claim 9, wherein the at least one camera comprises a zoom means for zooming-in on the printing plate in order to increase the accuracy of the positioning of the printing plate.

17. (currently amended) The device of claim ~~[[9]]~~ 14, wherein the ~~computer~~ at least one camera is adapted to ~~repeatedly sensing of~~ sense the position of the ~~carrier, printing plate and~~ wherein the control means is adapted to (i) ~~repeatedly the comparing of~~ compare the sensed position to the ~~[[end]]~~ desired final position and ~~the controlling of to~~ (ii) control the manipulator until the ~~[[end]]~~ desired final position has been reached with sufficient accuracy.

18. (currently amended) The device of claim 9, wherein the manipulator comprises a displaceable carriage with a pick-up device with which ~~[[a]]~~ the printing plate can be picked up and ~~displaced~~ transported to the carrier.

19. (withdrawn – currently amended) The device of claim 9, wherein the manipulator comprises a displaceable pressing element for ~~co-displacing~~ transporting the printing plate to the carrier by friction.

20. (currently amended) The device of claim 9, wherein the manipulator and the at least one camera are adapted to ~~displace~~ position and sense the printing plate simultaneously.